



NAVAJO COUNTY

Board of Supervisors

Jonathan M. Nez • Jesse Thompson • Jason E. Whiting • Steve Williams • Dawnafe Whitesinger

"We are Navajo County"

May 11, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

On behalf of Navajo County, I am writing to strongly support Arizona State Parks \$2.24 million TIGER VII grant application for the Homolovi State Parks road improvements near Winslow, Arizona.

As you may know, Homolovi State Park houses approximately 400 ancestral Hopi sites that date from 1260 to 1400 A.D. making them some of the most significant Hopi archaeological sites in Arizona. Homolovi is located north and east of the city of Winslow, Arizona (population of 9,655 according to the 2010 Census) and just south of the Hopi Reservation. Approximately, 16,000 visitors enter the Park each year and its net economic impact to this very rural community is approximately \$1.3 million per year.

The entrance to the State Park off of State Highway 87 -- known as Homolovi State Park Entrance Road -- is in disrepair and has to be rebuilt. In fact, one of the biggest complaints about the park is the entrance road's decay with cracks and potholes. Many potential visitors with large and expensive recreational vehicles (RVs) skip the park for this very reason. State Parks has recently committed funds to fill some of these cracks and potholes. Unfortunately, this is only a temporary solution. Since the system is not receiving any money from the state's general fund, and capital improvement money is inadequate to address all capital needs, State Parks doesn't have the necessary funding to complete a large, expensive project of this magnitude.

It is my understanding that State Parks is partnering with many interested parties including the Hopi Tribe and the City of Winslow to complete this project. Therefore, I strongly support Arizona State Parks \$2.24 million TIGER VII grant application to rebuild the Homolovi State Park Entrance Road.

Thanks in advance for your consideration of this important and worthy project.

Sincerely,

Jonathan M. Nez, Vice Chairman
Navajo County Board of Supervisors